

# Masalit language

**Masalit** (autonym *Masala/Masara*) (Arabic: **ماساليت**) is a Maban language spoken by the Masalit people in western Darfur, Sudan.

A group of Masalit known as the *Massalat* moved west into central-eastern Chad and have almost entirely switched to Arabic. Their ethnic population in Chad was 30,000 as of the 1993 census, but only 10 speakers of their language were reported in 1991.<sup>[4]</sup>

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## Sociolects

The Masalit language has two sociolects:

- "Heavy" Masalit, spoken by higher-ranking people and those in the countryside, with a complicated agglutinative grammar
- "Light" Masalit, spoken particularly in the home and in the market, with a somewhat simplified grammatical structure and many borrowings from Sudanese Arabic, the regional lingua franca and language of education.

## References

1. "Masalit" (<https://www.ethnologue.com/language/mls>). *Ethnologue*. Retrieved 2018-09-14.

2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Masalit" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/nucl1440>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.

3. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Massalat" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/mass1262>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.

4. Masalit language (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/mls/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)

## External links

Masalit	
<span>kana masalaka/masaraka</span>	
Native to	Sudan, Chad
Region	West Darfur, South Darfur (Sudan), Ouaddaï Region (Chad)
Ethnicity	Masalit
Native speakers	440,000 <span> </span> (2011-2013) <sup>[1]</sup>
Language family	<div>Nilo-Saharan? <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li> Maban<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Masalit languages<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Masalit</b></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></div>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	Either: <div>mls – Masalit</div> <div>mdg – Massalat</div>
Glottolog	nucl1440 ( <a href="http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/nucl1440">http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/nucl1440</a> ) <div>Nuclear Masalit<sup>[2]</sup></div> mass1262 ( <a href="http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/mass1262">http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/mass1262</a> ) <div>Massalat<sup>[3]</sup></div>

- The Lost Languages, Found in New York - NYTimes.com (<https://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/29/nyregion/29lost.html>)

## Further reading

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- Abdo, Alsadig Adam (2013). "Contrastive Analysis Between Masalit and English Language" (<http://khartoumspace.uofk.edu:8080/bitstream/handle/123456789/2274/Contrastive%20Analysis%20Between%20Masalit%20and%20English%20Language.pdf?sequence=1>) (PDF). (in Masalit and English). University of Khartoum, Sudan: unpublished. Retrieved 8 May 2015.
- Edgar, J. (1990). Masalit stories. *African Languages and Cultures*, 3(2), 127-148.
- Jakobi, A. (1991). Au Masali Grammar: With Notes on Other Languages of Darfur and Wadai. *Anthropos*, 86(4-6), 599-601.

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